

Remarks

A request for a three month extension of time, together with the requisite fee, accompanies this amendment. Entry of the above claim amendments is requested for the purpose of distinguishing the invention from the disclosures of the cited references.

Independent claims 1 and 5 now define the invention from both a system and method standpoint by elements which limit the invention to one which requires the master vehicle detector to control the commencement of vehicle sampling by the slave vehicle detector by means of a synch signal generated by the master vehicle detector; and which requires the receipt of a synch signal from one of the slave vehicle detectors to enable the master vehicle detector to begin vehicle sampling for the next sampling cycle. None of the references cited and applied in the outstanding Office Action teaches directly or inherently suggests such an invention.

The principal reference (Hilliard et al 6,611,210) is directed to an automotive vehicle classification and identification technique using inductive vehicle signatures. These signatures are made possible by a novel inductive loop arrangement which is coupled to a pair of ringing circuits shown in Fig. 9. Each loop 9, 10 is energized by momentarily closing associated power switches 18, 19, which causes D.C. power to be applied to closed loop circuits 9, 10. In response to the application of D.C. power, each loop generates a ringing signal illustrated in Fig. 10a, which is processed by certain sampling techniques described in the text of this patent to produce vehicle signatures. There is no teaching in the Hilliard et al reference of a system or method of synchronizing the operation of a plurality of vehicle detectors by using a synch output signal from a

master vehicle detector to control the commencement of vehicle sampling by one or more slave vehicle detectors; and using a synch output signal from a slave vehicle detector to enable the master vehicle detector to perform subsequent vehicle sampling. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Hilliard et al neither anticipate nor render obvious the invention defined by amended claims 1-7.

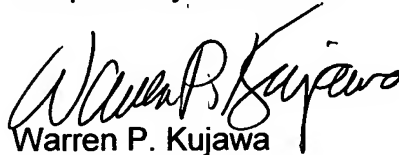
The Lee 6,337,640 reference is even further deficient in any teaching of the invention defined by claims 1-7. The Lee reference is directed to a vehicle monitoring system using novel inductive loops embedded in a roadbed. There is no detailed description of the generating/detecting circuit 30 shown in Fig. 1. Consequently, there is nothing in the Lee disclosure which teaches directly or inherently suggests a system and method as now defined by claims 1-7.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case for issue.

If deemed useful in any further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 702-270-8853.

A Notice of Change of Address accompanies this amendment. Please conduct all future correspondence in this application to the undersigned at the new address.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren P. Kujawa

Reg. No. 25142